

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 02534 261327Z

47

ACTION AF-08

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R 261220Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2457

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2534

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SU

SUBJECT: NEW ROUND OF SECURITY TRIALS

REF: KHARTOUM 2415

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. AFTER NEARLY TWO WEEKS DURING WHICH THERE HARDLY ANY MENTION OF SECURITY TRIALS IN PRESS, EXCEPT THAT TRIAL IN ABSENTIA OF JULY COUP ATTEMPT LEADERS WAS POSTPONED, REPORTS IN PRESS AUG 26 INDICATE NEW SECURITY TRIALS ARE TO BE CONVENED. "AL-SAHAFI" REPORTS THAT TRIAL IN ABSENTIA OF SADDIQ AL-MAHDI, SHARIF HUSSEIN AL-HINDI AND OTHER WILL BEGIN SATURDAY AUG 28. PAPER REPORTS THAT EIGHT-MAN "POLITICAL COMMITTEE" WILL ASSIST PROSECUTION TO PROVE ACCUSATIONS AND THAT THEY WILL REVEAL CRIMES, VIOLATIONS AND CORRUPT DEEDS COMMITTED BY ACCUSED WHEN THEY WERE IN SEATS OF POWER.

2. THERE WILL BE TWO OTHER TRIALS, ONE IN OMDURMAN WILL TRY ALI MAHMOUD HUSSEIN AND OTHERS ACCUSED OF PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF CONSPIRACY.

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 02534 261327Z

TRIAL AT ARMY GENERAL HEADQUARTERS IN KHARTOUM WILL

INVOLVE NUMBER OF MERCHANTS ACCUSED OF PARTICIPATING IN
FINANCING OF ABORTIVE COUP OPERATIONS.
END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IMPORTANT REASON FOR DELAY IN TRIALS
IS THAT THERE WAS DISPUTE OVER HOW TRIALS SHOULD BE
HANDLED. APPARENTLY PROSECUTOR GENERAL IN ATTORNEY
GENERAL'S OFFICE WANTED TO HAVE LATEST ROUND OF TRIALS IN
REGULAR NATIONAL COURTS AND NOT IN SPECIAL SECURITY TRIBUNALS.
HE WAS OVERRULED AND WE UNDERSTAND PROSECUTOR GENERAL AND
OTHER OFFICIALS IN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE HAVE RESIGNED.
FOLLOWING INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO FIRST SET OF TRIALS,
THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PUBLICITY. WILL BE INTERESTING TO
SEE HOW MUCH ATTENTION NEW ROUND OF TRIALS RECEIVES IN
LOCAL PRESS.

4. COMPARED TO PERIOD IN LATE JULY AND AUGUST,
POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN KHARTOUM IS RATHER QUIET NOW, AT
LEAST ON SURFACE. IN GENERAL, TROOPS AND TANKS ARE LESS
EVIDENT IN KHARTOUM AND VICINITY. NEVERTHELESS, BENEATH
SURFACE IT IS CLEAR GOS STILL STRONGLY CONCERNED WITH
SECURITY MATTERS. PASSPORT AND IMMIGRATION CONTROL IS
BEING TIGHTENED. FYI: WE UNDERSTAND SEVERAL THOUSAND
FALSE PASSPORTS AND COUNTERFEIT VISAS WERE FOUND AMONG
PERSONS WHO PARTICIPATED IN COUP ATTEMPT. END FYI.
SOME SEARCHES OF HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS ARE CONTINUING,
AND SUDANESE CULTURAL ATTACHES HAVE RECENTLY BEEN
ASSEMBLED HERE APPARENTLY TO BE BRIEFED ON ACTIVITIES
OF SUDANESE STUDENTS OVERSEAS, A MATTER THAT APPEARS TO
BE OF SOME CONCERN TO GOS. IN ADDITION, GOS GIVING
CAREFUL AND URGENT ATTENTION TO MAKING GENERAL
IMPROVEMENTS IN ITS MILITARY AND INTERNAL SECURITY
CAPABILITIES. DESPITE THESE MEASURES, GENERAL
ATMOSPHERE IS NOTICEABLY CALMER THAN WAS CASE TWO WEEKS
AGO. BOGOSIAN

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